

WILMINGTON 2011-12 Progress Report

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2012: Special Progress Report

Check inside

Learn more about major projects completed last year and find out what's coming up this year.



Your City At Work: By the Numbers

Each year, the city's 900-plus employees provide a variety of services to help maintain the community and keep it safe. These services are paid for with property tax dollars, user fees and state funding. Following is some information that illustrates what citizens received for their money in fiscal year 2011-12 as well as upcoming projects.

Wilmington at-a-glance

City population, 2010:
106,882

Median age, 2010: 33

Gender 2010:
Female 52.2%
Male 47.8%

Race 2010:
73.5% White
19.9% Black
3.46% American Indian/
Asian/Other
6.1% Hispanic

City Land Area:
52.76 square miles

9th largest city in NC

Source: US Census Bureau QuickFacts

Public Safety

- Police Department-184,000 calls for service
- Fire Department-10,250 response calls

Streets

- Miles of roadways maintained: 407
- Miles of sidewalks maintained: 300

Signs, Lights, Signals

- Signs manufactured and maintained: 17,000
- Miles of street markings maintained: 400
- Street lights maintained: 9,260
- Traffic signals maintained: 212

Solid Waste

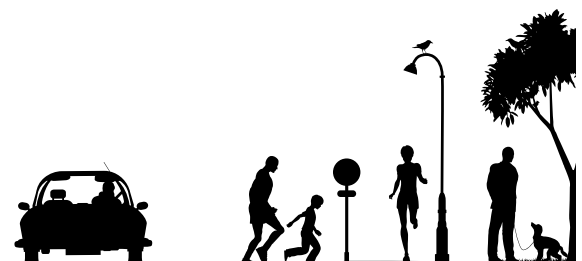
- Trash picked up – 23,242 tons (46,483,683 lbs.)
- Recycling picked up – 4,901 tons (9,802,190 lbs.)
- Yard waste picked up – 12,477 tons (24,954,842 lbs.)

Stormwater

- 86 miles of ditches cleaned (manual)
- 3,015 tons of street sweeping debris collected
- Almost 10,500 miles of streets swept

Parks & landscaping

- 531 acres public parks (34 public parks)
- 60 acres of greenways (21 locations)
- 184 acres of athletic and recreational facilities
- More than 9 acres of city-owned lots (24 locations)
- Approximately 71 miles of rights-of-way (107 locations) within the city
- Approximately 66 miles of rights-of-way (28 locations) for the NCDOT
- Approximately 13 miles of 127 alley locations
- Approximately 5 miles of medians (17 locations)
- More than 20 traffic speed reduction devices
- 52 dog waste stations throughout the city
- 35 playground units
- 336 trees planted



2011-2012 Infrastructure Improvements At a glance

5-year maintenance plan

Work on the city's 5-year maintenance plan got underway in 2012 as part of new \$41 million plan to make repairs to streets and other public facilities that had been put on hold during economic downturn.

Repaving projects completed:

- Ridgeway Drive, Highland Drive, Bordeaux Avenue, and Grace Street between 3rd & 4th streets
- Work also completed on Bagley Avenue, Pollock's Way and Parkway Drive that included stormwater drainage improvements, in addition to streets being rebuilt, resurfaced



North 3rd Street Improvement Project

\$10.4 million project included installation of new water and sewer lines, placement of power and other utilities underground, new sidewalks and pavement, as well as landscaping and other amenities, from Market Street to MLK Parkway

Handicap accessibility

- City made upgrades totaling more than \$1 million to several public facilities to make them more handicapped accessible
- Facilities include City Hall, Chestnut Street Administrative Annex, city parking decks, Legion Stadium and city pools
- 363 handicap ramps added to city sidewalks

Energy Efficiency

- Made lighting upgrades at numerous city facilities
- Installed two electric car charging stations (purchased through grant funding) in Market Street parking deck
- Installed energy efficient street lights as part of North 3rd Street Improvement Project



Parks

Miracle Field

- Completion of Miracle Field at Olsen Park, with most funding for \$1.2 million project provided by private donations and donation of services
- Wilmington Believes in Miracles Campaign raised most funding for the field, which is a specially-designed baseball field with a rubber surface, inlaid bases and other devices that make it easier for disabled users to navigate
- Local Kiwanis contributed \$75,000 for nearby playground

Empie Center Court

- Center court installed at Athea Gibson Tennis Complex at Empie Park
- \$41,000 project funded with 2006 par bond monies and a \$12,000 grant from US Tennis Association



Cross City Trail: work completed

- Bridge over headwaters of Bradley Creek from the end of Teal Street in the College Acres neighborhood to the edge of the Autumn Hall property
- Pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Eastwood and Military Cutoff roads.
- Pedestrian crossing of Eastwood Road at Rogersville Road and a trail along Eastwood to connect with Mayfaire
- Pedestrian crossing at Park Avenue and Independence Blvd. This crossing includes painted crosswalks and push-button activated signals.
- Received remaining funding needed to complete entire 15-mile trail, including \$550,000 from BlueCross BlueShield NC to help complete the final phase of the trail that will stretch from John D. Barry Drive on South 17th Street to Wade Park off Waltmoor Road
- Approximately 11 miles of the trail now completed



Seagate Park

- Received donation of a one-acre parcel at 6001 Mariner Lane (formerly Hinton Avenue) for a park in Seagate neighborhood
- Park will be a memorial to original property owners, the late Edward John Haneman ("Captain" Eddy Haneman) and his wife Mary Haneman, who were well known in area for sport fishing/recreation in the 1950s-1990s
- Construction for the park expected to begin this fall and be completed in early 2014

Parks continued



Portia Hines Park

- More than 200 volunteers converged at the city's Portia Mills Hines Park and built a playground in one day
- Park located at intersection of 10th and Rankin streets
- BlueCross BlueShield NC provided most funding, along with national non-profit organization KaBOOM!, which coordinates similar projects across the country
- NHC Blue Ribbon Commission on the Prevention of Youth Violence led initiative to get park upgraded

Dram Tree Park

- Upgrades included additional parking spaces for cars and boat trailers, as well as more open space
- Project also included installation of an underground stormwater retention tank to capture untreated stormwater runoff before it drains directly into nearby Cape Fear River
- City completed first phase of renovations with a new boat ramp and kayak launch in 2010

Public Safety

Empie Park Fire Station

- New 9,000-square-foot fire station at Empie Park completed
- Old fire station was demolished after mold was found in the building
- New station has similar design to Seagate Fire Station on Oleander Drive and has an additional 880 square feet to better accommodate today's larger fire equipment
- \$2 million project was completed on schedule and within budget
- An artifact from World Trade Center 9-11 bombing will be permanently displayed in a memorial garden as tribute to Wilmington's fallen firefighters
- Construction on memorial begins this year



WPD receives national accreditation

- Wilmington Police Department received Advanced Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)
- This is highest recognition a law enforcement agency can receive in the US
- WPD first agency in this region to achieve this award



Increased safety downtown

- 2012 had the fewest serious and violent crimes in the Central Business District (CBD) in a decade – from 2002 to 2012, overall crime in the CBD decreased by 36%, while the population increased by 33%
- Violent crime in the downtown area decreased by 11% from 2011 to 2012
- WPD took the lead in establishing a 16-member Downtown Task Force made up of law enforcement officers from the Wilmington Police Department and the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office. Previously, there were only four dedicated officers in the CBD
- Task Force emphasis is on reducing crime and maintaining safety in the area

Stormwater



Cedar Avenue

- A \$1.7 million project for stormwater improvements in Cedar Avenue area
- Improvements have significantly reduced flooding problems that occur during heavy rains on College Road between Wrightsville Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard

Cavalier Drive

- A \$1.6 million project that included the installation of a half-mile long, 5½-foot stormwater drainage pipe along Eastwood Road
- Drainage pipe carries stormwater away from Cavalier Drive area to a tributary of Bradley Creek, significantly reducing flooding
- Previously, even minor rain events caused area flooding

Mineral Springs

Improvements made reduced flooding problems in the vicinity of Dawson Street and Oleander Drive

Ongoing & Upcoming Projects



Riverwalk Improvements

Riverwalk improvements will also be made as part of 5-year plan – projects planned for this year include:

- Construction of 1,300 feet of Riverwalk just north of the Wilmington Convention Center, adjacent to privately owned marina currently under construction
- Construction of a section of Riverwalk between marina and northernmost existing section (between Harnett and Cowan streets)
- Church Street shoreline stabilization project
- Reconstruction of Brooks Building section of Riverwalk
- Repairs to three Riverwalk pocket parks

5-year maintenance plan

Work on the city's 5-year maintenance plan will continue this year as part of \$41 million plan to make repairs to streets and other public facilities that had been put on hold during economic downturn.

- Street paving and repairs planned for this year include: Park Avenue, Rose Avenue, Clear Run Drive, College Acres Drive, Cardinal Drive and portions of 17th Street Extension

Cardinal Drive

- Just began work on \$673,000 drainage improvement project in Cardinal Drive/George Trask Drive area
- Project will help alleviate flooding that has long been a problem in this area
- Project is continuation of area drainage improvements that began with \$1.5 million Market Street/Inland Greens project completed in 2009



Randall Parkway widening

- 15-month project has just begun to widen Randall Parkway to four-lanes to alleviate heavy traffic in vicinity of Kerr Avenue and College Road
- Will also extend Cross-City Trail from Randall pond bridge to Marlboro Drive
- Adds bike lanes on both sides of Randall between Collegiate Drive and College Road
- More than half of funding for \$5.6 million project comes from federal, state monies

Inland Greens

- Inland Greens stormwater project will get underway this spring and involves extensive drainage improvements on city-owned Inland Greens golf course and Wiregrass Road, as well as construction of park and 9-hole, par-3 golf course
- Total project cost for park/golf course and stormwater improvements is \$1.95 million
- Project expected to be complete next fall

Creek restoration plan

- Developed Bradley and Hewletts Creek Watershed Restoration Plan, which will serve as blueprint for how to reduce pollution long-term in Bradley and Hewletts creeks
- City and NC Coastal Federation (NCCF), with assistance from UNCW and Wrightsville Beach, developed plan



Cross-City Trail

- Expected completion of a ¾-mile section through Autumn Hall that connects Teal Street bridge and College Acres neighborhood with Eastwood Road
- A 2,300-foot asphalt path that will cross Shipyard Boulevard, traveling along Independence Boulevard between Ashton and Converse drives
- Project includes pedestrian signal amenities added to existing signal at Independence Boulevard/Shipyard intersection
- A 1,600-foot section that will run from Canal Street to Wrightsville Beach drawbridge, as well as improvements at intersection of Eastwood Road and Wrightsville Avenue



Alderman Park

- Construction of Alderman Park began last fall; expected to be completed this spring
- Planned improvements include parking, observation areas and walking paths
- Located on Canterbury Drive next to Alderman Elementary School, preserve will also be hub on Cross-City Trail